

Message Text

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ACTION AF-06

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 NEA-10 IO-11 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00

PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01

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FM AMEMBASSY CONAKRY

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 1725

INFO AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA

AMEMBASSY ALGIERS

AMEMBASSY BAMAKO

AMEMBASSY CAPE TOWN

AMEMBASSY COTONOU

AMEMBASSY DAKAR

AMEMBASSY DAR ES SALAAM

AMEMBASSY KINSHASA

AMEMBASSY LAGOS

AMEMBASSY LISBON

AMEMBASSY LOME

AMEMBASSY LUSAKA

AMEMBASSY MAPUTO

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY PRETORIA

USMISSION USUN NY

C O N F I D E N T I A L CONAKRY 0540

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PGOV PFOR GV US AO CU PU

SUBJECT: CASTRO, NETO AND LUIS CABRAL VISIT CONAKRY

REF: (A) CONAKRY 0525 (NOTAL) (B) CONAKRY 0526 (NOTAL)

1. SUMMARY: SEKOU TOURE'S "MINI SUMMIT" OF AFRICAN "PRO-
GRESSIVES" PRODUCED, AS EXPECTED, LAVISH PRAISE FOR CUBAN
AND USSR MILITARY INTERVENTION IN ANGOLA, WITH HIMTS FROM
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CASTRO, OF CONTINUING OPERATIONS AGAINST NAMIBIA,

RHODESIA AND SOUTH AFRICA. PUBLIC STATEMENTS STRESSED MILITARY PARTICIPATION IN ANGOLA OF GUINEA AND GUINEA-BISSAU FORCES, AIDING MPLA ALONGSIDE CUBANS. THOUGH SEKOU TOURE, CABRAL AND NETO SPEECHES AT STADIUM RALLY WERE RELATIVELY (GIVEN CONTEXT) INNOCUOUS, CASTRO PULLED OUT ALL STOPS IN DENOUNCING "YANKEE IMPERIALISM" AND ATTACKING PRESIDENT FORD AND SECRETARY KISSINGER BY NAME. END SUMMARY.

2. FOLLOWING ARRIVAL OF PRESIDENTS LUIS CABRAL AND AGOSTINHO NETO, ALONG WITH FIDEL CASTRO, ON MARCH 14 AND OFFICIAL BANQUET THAT EVENING (REF A) GOG STAGED MASSIVE TRIUMPHAL RALLY AT STADIUM AFTERNOON MARCH 15. SEKOU TOURE DELIVERED SHORT SPEECH OF INTRODUCTION, FOLLOWED BY SPEECHES OF CABRAL, NETO (BOTH IN FLUENT FRENCH) AND FIDEL CASTRO (IN SPANISH WITH SIMULTANEOUS TRANSLATION). STADIUM ACOUSTICS REPORTEDLY EXTREMELY POOR AND FEW WERE ABLE UNDERSTAND CASTRO'S DIATRIBE. ALL SPEECHES WERE CLEAR, HOWEVER, ON LIVE RADIO COVERAGE WHICH HAS BEEN REBROADCAST ON NUMEROUS OCCASIONS. PRIMIN BEAVOGUI READ JOINT COMMUNIQUE FOLLOWING SPEECHES, SUBSTANCE OF WHICH WILL BE REPORTED BY SEPTEL.

3. LUIS CABRAL DEPARTED IMMEDIATELY FOLLOWING STADIUM RALLY, WITHOUT AIRPORT CEREMONIES. CASTRO DEPARTED EARLY MORNING MARCH 16 (DESTINATION UNANNOUNCED THOUGH PREVIOUS GUINEAN RADIO REPORTS INDICATED HE IS EXPECTED IN BISSAU MARCH 16). NETO SCHEDULED TO LEAVE AFTERNOON MARCH 16.

4. ENTIRE VISIT, ESPECIALLY STADIUM RALLY, TURNED INTO ORGY OF SELF-CONGRATULATION ON VICTORY OVER "IMPERIALISTS AND RACISTS" IN ANGOLA, WITH CASTRO GETTING LION'S SHARE OF CREDIT. NETO SPEECH SEEMED RELATIVELY MILD, BUT HE THANKED CASTRO AND USSR FOR ASSISTANCE WHICH TURNED TIDE AGAINST SOUTH AFRICAN INVASION. NETO MADE FIRST PUBLIC ANNOUNCEMENT EVER, IN GUINEA, THAT GUINEAN TROOPS IN ANGOLA. HE EQUATED SMALL GUINEA AND GUINEA-BISSAU CONTINGENTS WITH CUBAN EXPEDITIONARY FORCES. CABRAL ALSO SPOKE OF GUINEA-BISSAU MILITARY CONTRIBUTION, IN SPEECH THAT MADE ALL THE RIGHT RHETORICAL NOISES BUT, IN CONTEXT, SEEMED RELATIVELY MILD.

5. CASTRO'S BOMBASTIC SPEECH, CONFUSED BY SIMULTANEOUS
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FRENCH TRNSLATION, WAS BARELY UNDERSTANDABLE TO GUINEANS AND DIPLOMATIC CORPS (EXCEPT US CHARGE) AT STADIUM. ACCORDING FRG CHARGE, SPEECH FIZZLED BADLY AND CASTRO'S CHARISMA DID NOT REALLY COME THROUGH. NEVERTHELESS, CASTRO CLEARLY VERY POPULAR IN GUINEA AND WAS ALWAYS GREETED BY THUNDEROUS APPLAUSE.

6. CASTRO FOCUSED ON "IMPERIALIST" AND RACIST" THREAT

TO SOUTHERN AFRICA WHICH WAS ABORTED SO FAR BY "LATIN-AFRICAN" PEOPLE OF CUBA. HE CHARGED THAT SMALL PORTION OF ANGOLA STILL OCCUPIED BY SOUTH AFRICAN RACISTS. HE ADDED THAT SUMMIT IN CONAKRY WAS DESIGNED TO ANALYZE STRATEGY TO FOLLOW IN COMING MONTHS TO LIBERATE ALL OF ANGOLA AND CONSOLIDATE ITS INDEPENDENCE. "IMPERIALISTS WISH TO KNOW WHAT WE HAVE DISCUSSED HERE. THIS IS UNREVOLUTIONARY QUESTION." CASTRO AFFIRMED THAT PRESIDENT NETO HAS STATED PUBLICLY THAT MPLA GOVERNMENT HAS NO INTENTION DESTROYING HYDROELECTRIC DAM NEAR NAMIBIAN BORDER, NOR OF CUTTING ELECTRICITY. NEVERTHELESS, HE THREATENED THAT IF SOUTH AFRICA MAKES DAM A BATTLEFIELD, OUTCOME WOULD ONLY BE SOUTH AFRICA'S FAULT. FURTHER, IF SOUTH AFRICA CONTINUES OCCUPY PORTION OF ANGOLA AND NAMIBIA, SOUTH AFRICA MUST TAKE RESPONSIBILITY FOR BLACK AFRICAN ARMED RESPONSE.

7. CASTRO ATTACKED "YANKEE IMPERIALISTS" THROUGHOUT SPEECH. AT ONE POINT HE ATTACKED PRESIDENT FORD AND SECRETARY KISSINGER BY NAME FOR SUPPORTING 3 MILLION WHITE RACISTS AGAINST BLAKCS IN SOUTH AFRICA AS WELL AS "WHITE RACISTS" IN RHODESIA.

8. CASTRO CONCLUDED WITH FULLSOME PRAISE FOR SEKOU TOURE, "WHO IS NO LONGER ISOLATED AND NO LONGER ALONE." HE ADDED THAT GUINEA NOW HAS MANY FRIENDS AND ALLIES. THIS, HE SAID, WAS WORK OF SEKOU TOURE AND OF GUINEA PEOPLE.

9. COMMENTS FOLLOW.
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